

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of October 6, 2005. In the office action, Claims 1-40 were examined. No claims have been cancelled and no new claims have been added. Claims 1-40 remain pending after entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,122,664 issued to Boukobza et al. ("Boukobza").

The Applicants have taken this opportunity to amend the independent claims to distinguish the present invention more clearly from the system of the cited reference. Specifically, independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include as a step of the method of the invention modifying by one or more devices of the network infrastructure the static policies, the dynamic policies, or both for the attached function based upon the detection of one or more triggers. Independent Claims 18 and 27 have been amended to include as a feature of the system of the invention that the dynamic policy function module of the network infrastructure sets static and dynamic policies for the attached function, monitors the network system for triggers, and modifies the static policies, the dynamic policies, or both for the attached function based upon the detection of one or more triggers.

Independent Claim 32 has been amended to describe a system to control the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the attached function, one or more other attached functions and network infrastructure, based on one or more usage policies assigned to the attached function, with means for saving information about the one or more usage policies assigned to the attached function on a network device of the network infrastructure. Independent Claim 34 has been amended to describe a system to control the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the attached function, one or more other attached functions and network infrastructure, based on dynamic policies assigned to the attached function, with means for saving on one or more devices of the network infrastructure information about the dynamic policies assigned to the attached function as policies histories. Independent Claim 37 has been amended to describe a system to control usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the attached function, one or more other attached functions and network

infrastructure, based on one or more usage policies assigned to the attached function, the system comprising means for caching on one or more devices of the network infrastructure the usage policies assigned to the attached function as policies histories. Finally, independent Claim 40 has been amended to describe the method of the present invention as including the step of modifying by one or more devices of the network infrastructure the policies for the attached function based upon the detection of one or more policy history triggers.

Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendments made to the independent claims further distinguish the present invention from the system described in the cited reference.

The 35 USC § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-40 as filed were rejected as being unpatentable in view of Boukobza alone. It is stated in the office action, among other things, that Boukobza teaches setting and modifying static and dynamic policies. Column 2, lines 21-36; column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 5, and the abstract are cited for this position. However, a careful review of these passages and the remainder of the text of the Boukobza reference clearly indicate that static and dynamic parameters are contemplated, not policies. Boukobza describes parameters as values or conditions to be monitored for, whether they are static or dynamic parameters. These parameters correspond to conditions of operation. On the other hand, Boukobza makes no mention of policies, which are the permissions granted to attached functions for usage of network services. For example, the policy of allowing access to engineering applications may be granted to one attached function, while another attached function may be permitted access to accounting applications through a different policy. The present invention enables changing of established policies based on triggers. Those triggers may be the result of particular actions of an attached function, the actions of other attached functions, or other conditions of operation of the network infrastructure. The independent claims of the present invention are directed to policy changes. Boukobza is directed to monitoring for triggers. Boukobza is not directed to automated policy changes based upon the detection of triggers, and instead teaches away from such a characteristic. Specifically, Boukobza states in the abstract and column 2, lines 36-38, thereof calls for “possibly initiating actions associated with these tested conditions, which parameters, conditions and actions are modifiable by the user of the management node. The present invention does not require waiting for the user of the management node to initiate an action,

optionally, based on a condition being met. As Applicants have noted in paragraph (007) of the application: “Any adjustment to the state of permitted attached function network usage typically occurs manually after evaluation of the detected anomalies. There is presently no comprehensive capability available for continuous network system monitoring and network-forced adjustment or change of assigned network usage permissions based upon the detection of one or more conditions that would trigger such a change.” The present invention has addressed that problem. Boukobza does not, but instead only provides one mechanism for condition/parameter/trigger monitoring.

The claims as originally filed in the present application clearly state that it is policies and not parameters that are the subject of change based on monitored triggers. In addition, Applicants have further amended the independent claims to clarify one difference between the present invention and the Boukobza reference. Specifically, in the applicable independent claims the invention is described as modifying the static and/or dynamic policies at one or more devices of the network infrastructure. Boukobza makes only passing suggestion that action may be taken based upon the parameter monitoring, but that that action is taken by the user of the management node, not, for example, at a network entry device, a central switching device, or the like. Further, in the applicable claims, it is noted that policy changes made and policy histories are stored as an aspect of the invention. Nowhere does Boukobza mention or suggest anything about saving policy change information. Further, Boukobza does not suggest using policy history information as a trigger.

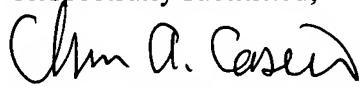
The present invention is directed to static and dynamic policy changing based on monitored triggers. The triggers may be most any condition or change of condition of the network system. Boukobza may be a suitable means for monitoring for triggers, through the use of defined parameters and monitoring thereof through autonomous agents applied to attached functions. However, Boukobza fails to describe what to do with the information obtained through use of the autonomous agents. The present invention as described by the amended claims, teaches an automated system for changing policies, or permissions of network system usage, for attached functions based on the triggers detected. In view of the amendments made to the independent claims and the arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully suggest that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of pending Claims 1-40 has been successfully traversed. Withdrawal of that rejection is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments made to the independent claims and the remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully suggest that the rejection under 35 § 103(a) has been successfully traversed. Allowance of pending Claims 1-40 is therefore requested.

By this amendment, no new claims have been added. Therefore, no additional filing fee is required.

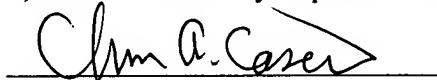
Respectfully submitted,



Chris A. Caseiro, Reg. No. 34,304
Attorney for Applicants
Verrill & Dana, LLP
One Portland Square
Portland, ME 04112-0586
Tel. No. 207-253-4530

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 6, 2006. It is hereby requested that this filing be granted a filing date of January 6, 2006.



Chris A. Caseiro